

## Army Conducts Fourth Disinterment of Native Americans at Carlisle Barracks

By Office of Army Cemeteries 15 June 2021



*file photo, Army Cemetery at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania*

CARLISLE, Pa. – The U.S. Army will continue its commitment to reunite Native American families with their loved ones through its fourth disinterment project at Carlisle Barracks, beginning June 19, 2021.

The Army anticipates bringing closure to one Alaskan Native family and nine Native American families whose children died after being sent to the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and who were buried there more than 100 years ago. On behalf of the Army, the Office of Army Cemeteries is scheduled to begin the multi-phase disinterment project in mid-June, with archaeological and anthropological expertise from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The decedent names are Dennis Strikes First (Blue Tomahawk); Rose Long Face (Little Hawk); Lucy Take The Tail (Pretty Eagle); Warren

Painter (Bear Paints Dirt); Ernest Knocks Off (White Thunder); Maud Little Girl (Swift Bear); Alvan, aka Roaster, Kills Seven Horses, One That Kills Seven Horses; Friend Hollow Horn Bear; and Dora Her Pipe (Brave Bull), all from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe; and Sophia Tetoff, an Alaskan Aleut.

“The Army’s commitment remains steadfast to these nine Native American families and one Alaskan Native family. Our objective is to reunite the families with their children in a manner of utmost dignity and respect,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director of Army National Military Cemeteries.

In 1879, Carlisle Barracks became the site of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, operated by the Department of the Interior until 1918. The school educated more than 10,000 Native American children, with representation from approximately 50 Native American tribes from across the nation.

OAC will disinter and transfer custody to families able to establish the closest family link between the decedent and requestor, following Army Regulation 290-5. The transfer will enable families to return the children to cemeteries of their choice. The Army will reimburse families for their travel to participate in a transfer ceremony and is also funding the cost for transport and reinterment of the deceased children.

The Carlisle Barracks Post Cemetery will be closed to visitors starting June 14, when set-up begins, until the completion of actions, tentatively scheduled for July 17. Out of respect for the families and tribes, and consistent with Army cemetery protocol, the entire cemetery area will be enclosed with privacy fencing. Access to the cemetery will be restricted to the OAC staff along with tribal members and their families.